

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A revision system for a network having a plurality of data ports, pairs of said data ports being connectable to place said pairs of data ports into communication with each other, said revision system comprising:

a computer processor;

a scanner in communication with said computer processor, said scanner capable of polling at least some of said data ports for determining information therefrom;

a plurality of local system ports disposed at distinct physical locations within said system, said local system ports in communication with said computer processor; and

at least one visual indicator corresponding to and disposed physically proximately to at least a plurality of said data ports, whereby when one of said data ports is placed in communication with one of said local system ports, said visual indicator corresponding to said data port may display information about said corresponding data port.

2. (Original) A revision system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said plurality of data ports are distributed over and disposed upon a plurality of network racks and each of said racks includes at least one local system port disposed proximately thereto.

3. (Original) A revision system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said scanner periodically polls all of said data ports in said system.

4. (Original) A revision system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said scanner polls at least said data port in communication with said local system port while said data port and local system port are in communication with each other.

5. (Original) A revision system for a network having a plurality of data ports, pairs of said data ports being connectable to place said pairs of data ports into communication with each other, said revision system comprising:

a computer processor;

a scanner in communication with said computer processor, said scanner capable of polling at least some of said data ports for determining information therefrom;

a plurality of local system ports disposed at distinct physical locations within said system, said local system ports in communication with said computer processor; and

a portable information module for connecting to respective ones of said plurality of local system ports, whereby when said portable information module is connected to one of said local system ports, said portable information module may be placed into communication with and display information about respective ones of said data ports in said system.

6. (Original) A revision system in accordance with claim 5 wherein said plurality of data ports are distributed over and disposed upon a plurality of network racks and each of said racks includes at least one local system port disposed proximately thereto.

7. (Original) A revision system in accordance with claim 5 wherein said system further includes a second portable information module for connecting to respective ones of said plurality of local system ports, wherein when said second module is connected to one of said local system ports, said second module may be placed into communication with and display information about respective ones of said data ports in said system, said second module being able to function on said revision system simultaneously with said other portable information module.

8. (Original) A revision system in accordance with claim 5 wherein said scanner periodically polls all of said data ports in said system.

9. (Original) A revision system in accordance with claim 5 wherein said scanner polls at least said data port connected to said portable information module upon connection of said portable information module with said connected data port.

10. (Original) A revision system in accordance with claim 5 wherein at least one of said data ports includes a port plate disposed proximately thereto.

11. (Original) A revision system in accordance with claim 5 wherein one of said data ports includes a patch cord plug inserted therein, said patch cord plug disposed at an end of said

patch cord and including a plug extension for contacting said port plate when said patch cord plug is inserted in said data port.

12. (Original) A revision system in accordance with claim 11 wherein said patch cord plug includes a plug plate thereon, said plug plate being connectable to said portable information module.

13. (Currently Amended) A portable information module for use in a revision system including a plurality of data ports, pairs of said data ports being connectable to place said pairs of data ports into communication with each other, a computer processor, a scanner in communication with said computer processor, said scanner capable of polling at least some of said data ports for determining connective status information therefrom, a plurality of local system ports disposed at distinct physical locations within said system, said local system ports in communication with said computer processor, said portable information module comprising:

a system port connector for enabling connection with respective ones of said local system ports;

a data port connector for enabling connection with respective ones of said data ports; and

an indicator for conveying information to the user when the system port connector is connected to at least one of the local system ports and the data port connector is connected to at least one of the data ports, the information regarding the status of the revision system.

14. (Original) A portable information module in accordance with claim 13 wherein said indicator includes a visual indicator.

15. (Original) A portable information module in accordance with claim 14 wherein said visual indicator includes a light-emitting diode.

16. (Original) A portable information module in accordance with claim 14 wherein said visual indicator includes a liquid crystal display.

17. (Original) A portable information module in accordance with claim 14 wherein said visual indicator includes a color display screen.

18. (Original) A portable information module in accordance with claim 13 wherein at least one of said data ports includes a port plate disposed proximately thereto.

19. (Original) A portable information module in accordance with claim 18 wherein one of said data ports includes a patch cord plug inserted therein, said patch cord plug disposed at an end of said patch cord and including a plug extension for contacting said port plate when said patch cord plug is inserted in said data port.

20. (Original) A portable information module in accordance with claim 19 wherein said patch cord plug includes a plug plate thereon, said plug plate being connectable to said portable information module.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining information regarding the status of a revision system, said revision system including a plurality of data ports, pairs of said data ports being connectable to place said pairs of data ports into communication with each other, a computer processor, a scanner in communication with said computer processor, said scanner capable of polling at least some of said data ports for determining connective status information therefrom, and a plurality of local system ports disposed at distinct physical locations within said system, said local system ports in communication with said computer processor, said method comprising the steps of:

providing ~~an~~ a portable information module having a system port connector, a data port connector, and an indicator;

connecting said system port connector to one of said plurality of local system ports;

connecting said data port connector to one of said data ports in said system; and

observing said indicator to obtain information regarding the status of said revision system when the system port connector is connected to the one of the local system ports and the data port connector is connected to the one of the data ports.

22. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 21 wherein at least one of said data ports includes a port plate disposed proximately thereto.

23. (Original) A revision system for a network having a plurality of data ports, pairs of said data ports being connectable to place said pairs of data ports into communication with each other, said revision system comprising:

- a computer processor;
- a port plate corresponding to each of said data ports in said system;
- a scanner in communication with said computer processor, said scanner capable of polling at least some of said port plates for determining information therefrom;
- a plurality of local system ports disposed at distinct physical locations within said system, said local system ports in communication with said computer processor; and
- at least one visual indicator corresponding to and disposed proximately to at least a plurality of said port plates, whereby when one of said port plates is placed in communication with one of said local system ports, said visual indicator corresponding to said port plate may display information about said corresponding port plate.

24. (Original) A revision system for a network having a plurality of data ports, pairs of said data ports being connectable to place said pairs of data ports into communication with each other, said revision system comprising:

- a computer processor;
- a port plate corresponding to each of said data ports in said system;
- a scanner in communication with said computer processor, said scanner capable of polling at least some of said port plates for determining information therefrom;
- a plurality of local system ports disposed at distinct physical locations within said system, said local system ports in communication with said computer processor; and
- a portable information module for connecting to respective ones of said plurality of local system ports, whereby when said portable information module is connected to one of said local system ports, said portable information module may be placed into communication with and display information about respective ones of said port plates in said system.

25. (Original) A method for obtaining information regarding the status of a revision system, said revision system including a plurality of data ports, pairs of said data ports being connectable to place said pairs of data ports into communication with each other, a computer processor, a port plate corresponding to each of said data ports in said system, a scanner in

communication with said computer processor, said scanner capable of polling at least some of said port plates for determining connective status information therefrom, and a plurality of local system ports disposed at distinct physical locations within said system, said local system ports in communication with said computer processor, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an information module having a system port connector, a port plate connector, and an indicator;
connecting said system port connector to one of said plurality of local system ports;
connecting said port plate connector to one of said port plates in said system; and
observing said indicator to obtain information regarding the status of said revision system.

26. (New) A method in accordance with claim 21 further comprising targeting at least one of a scan or analysis of scan results to obtain information regarding the status of said revision system.

27. (New) A method in accordance with claim 25 further comprising targeting at least one of a scan or analysis of scan results to obtain information regarding the status of said revision system.

28. (New) A method in accordance with claim 21 wherein said port plate is disposed such that when a patch cord plug of a patch cord is inserted in a data port corresponding to the port plate, a plug extension of said patch cord plug contacts said port plate.

29. (New) A revision system in accordance with claim 1 wherein each of said visual indicators includes a light-emitting diode.